

**DEVIZES RURAL DISTRICT
COUNCIL**

**ANNUAL
REPORT**

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND

Senior Public Health Inspector

For 1957



Woodwards, Printers, Devizes.

DEVIZES RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1957

To the Chairman and Members of the Devizes Rural District Council.

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the state of the Public Health of the Devizes Rural District during the Year, 1957.

I wish to record my appreciation of the help and advice received from the Council's Officers, particularly the Senior Public Health Inspector, during the year. I also wish to thank the Chairman and Members of the Council for their continued co-operation and understanding.

I have the honour to be,
Your obedient servant,
KENNETH J. ADAMS,
Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health

K. J. ADAMS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H. (Univ. Lond.).

Senior Public Health Inspector

G. E. WILLIAMS, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I. (Also Surveyor and Water Engineer).

Assistant Public Health Inspector

V. C. S. ROBEY, M.A.P.H.I. (Also Deputy Surveyor and Deputy Water Engineer).

Additional Public Health Inspector

D. W. E. JESSETT.

Housing Inspector

E. C. BISHOP.

Rodent Operative

F. W. BARRETT (Part-time, being shared with Devizes Borough Council).

Clerical Staff

W. H. POULTNEY.

G. W. MADDOX.

MISS B. P. COX.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area in Acres	...	...	...	63,491
Population (Registrar General's Estimate)	...	...	...	16,500
Number of Inhabited houses	...	...	...	3,948
Rateable Value	...	...	...	£110,421
Product of 1d. Rate	...	...	...	£485/2/1d.

VITAL STATISTICS

Birth and Death Rates Compared with other Areas

(Births and Deaths per 1,000 population)

				Birth Rate	Death Rate
Devizes Rural District	...	...	...	13.34	7.03
England and Wales	...	...	...	16.1	11.5
Wiltshire	...	...	...	18.28	9.69
Devizes Borough	...	...	...	18.29	9.52

In calculating Birth and Death Rates, area comparability factors are issued by the Registrar General to "correct" irregularities in the age and sex structure of the population, and also to take into account any high mortality due to the presence of residential institutions.

Births and Infantile Deaths

	Legitimate		Illegitimate		
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total
Live Births	101	117	1	1	220
Still Births	1	3	—	—	4
Deaths under 1 year ..	1	3	—	—	4
Deaths under 4 weeks ..	—	3	—	—	3

Infantile Mortality.

The infantile mortality rate is the number of deaths of infants under one year of age per 1,000 registered live births. There were 4 deaths among infants under one year of age to 220 live births in the area. The figures are too small to calculate an accurate infantile mortality rate but they compare favourably with the national rate of 23.0 deaths in infants under one year of age per thousand live births, and the Wiltshire rate of 22.88.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

There were no deaths from communicable diseases during the year. Cases notified were as follows:—

Measles	...	...	121
Food Poisoning	...	...	56
Whooping Cough	...	...	21
Scarlet Fever	...	...	14
Dysentery	...	...	11
Acute Pneumonia	...	...	6
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	...	...	7
(Non-Respiratory)	...	...	2

Measles.

121 cases of this disease were notified during the year. Most of the cases occurred at Urchfont and Seend. It is impossible to institute control measures for this disease except to apply rule of thumb exclusion practice in school which the head teachers carry out. Therefore there is, in my opinion, little point in the department receiving notification of this disease from family doctors—notification being obligatory under the Measles and Whooping Cough Regulations, 1940. The fee payable to a family doctor for notifying this disease is 2/6d. Notifications of measles cost this Council £15 2s. 6d. during the year, and in the first quarter of 1957 the fees for measles notifications in England and Wales alone cost £30,000.

Measles was made notifiable during the First World War, and was not again notifiable until 1939 when provisional regulations to notify were passed. These were superseded by the Measles and Whooping Cough Regulations, 1940. In Ministry of Health Circular 1896 (a) issued on the 1st November, 1939 referring to the provisional 1939 regulations the object of notification is:—

“to enable the Department to ascertain readily and rapidly the incidence of these diseases, as it may be affected by the displacement of child population caused by the recent emergency measures and the changes that may have occurred in the geographical distribution of the infectious diseases.”

I was pleased, therefore, when the Council decided to take up the matter of measles notification with the Rural District Councils Association, and when the Association later agreed to make representations to the Minister of Health to obtain the revocation of the Measles and Whooping Cough Regulations, 1940 as regards Measles.

Diphtheria

No case of this disease occurred during the year. The following number of children were immunised for the first time:—

	1956	1957
Aged less than one year	98	129
Aged one to four years	54	45
Aged five to nine years	5	24

The following children received boosting injections:—

			1956	1957
Aged one to four years	...	...	11	12
Aged five to nine years	...	...	136	123
Aged ten to fourteen years	...	...	40	18

Diphtheria is still with us, and can only be kept at bay by a large immunised child population. In some areas of England where prejudiced parents refuse immunisation, the disease flourishes. The Ministry of Health recommend that 75% of children should be immunised before their first birthday. It is important that parents should not be so blinded by the galaxy of immunisation and vaccination procedures now available that they omit the rather humdrum Diphtheria immunisation.

Whooping Cough

Twenty-one cases were notified, but there is no doubt that many more cases occur and are not recognised, parents often not bothering to consult their doctors and passing the matter off in their own minds as "chestiness". The disease is serious in infants, and in very young children it may leave the lung structure permanently damaged. Unfortunately this damage cannot be seen with the naked eye so we tend not to concern ourselves with it—"out of sight: out of mind".

The Wiltshire County Council and family doctors offer a combined Diphtheria and Whooping Cough vaccine which is 80% effective in preventing the disease. The following number of children were vaccinated against Whooping Cough for the first time:—

Aged less than one year	...	...	...	122
Aged one to four years	...	...	...	39

Tuberculosis

Nine cases of Tuberculosis were notified during the year and seven of these had lung symptoms. In an effort to check the spread of the disease two methods of control were instituted:—

Under Section 37 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, The Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and the Minister of Health jointly have power to declare that only Tuberculin Tested or Pasteurised Milk shall be sold in any given area. From the 1st April, 1957, Wiltshire became such an area. Milk infected with tuberculosis has, in the past, caused much unnecessary suffering. Misguided persons have argued that infected milk will act as a vaccine, building up a resistance to tuberculosis through the intestine. This is certainly true, but these same persons would be unlikely to countenance the use of a "vaccine" which kills about a thousand persons annually in England and leaves many more permanently crippled or deformed.

The County Council introduced vaccination against Tuberculosis, subject to parental consent, to 13 year old children who have not already had the disease. This is known as B.C.G. Vaccination and is performed at School. The measure is a popular one and most parents consent. About one-third of the children participating in the scheme are found to have already had tuberculosis without being aware of it.

Poliomyelitis

No cases of this disease were notified. Vaccination against the infection continued through the summer months and no complaints were received in this area about reactions to the vaccine.

German Measles

This disease is not notifiable, but many cases occurred in school children living in Bromham, West Lavington and Great Cheverell. There is a known association between congenital malformation of the unborn child and German Measles contracted by expectant mothers in the first three months of their pregnancy.

It is difficult to give publicity to such knowledge during an outbreak of the disease without causing alarm, but the association should be more widely known so that expectant mothers will avoid contact with German Measles cases or if exposure is inevitable they should receive an injection of Gamma Globulin to protect against it. The greatest difficulty in the prevention of this association of events is that the most sensitive period for malformation to occur is during the first six weeks, when an expectant mother may be only just aware of her pregnancy.

In order to minimise this risk in the affected villages, family doctors were informed where Gamma Globulin could be obtained and the County Medical Officer of Health agreed that the attention of Health Visitors and Nurses should be drawn to the significance of the prevailing epidemic.

Reference has been made in the popular press to German Measles tea-parties for young female children so that they may be exposed to and contract the disease before they reach motherhood. But there is now some evidence to show that the foetus may still be deformed by exposure to German Measles *even though the mother may give no history of illness in pregnancy.*

Smallpox

No cases of this disease were reported but the need for a primary vaccination in infancy is still great. With the advent of air travel it is easily possible for a person to enter the country from an area where the disease is endemic. Such a person may be quite free of symptoms as the incubation period is twelve days.

The district was alerted in May when clinical Smallpox was diagnosed at Ludgershall; subsequently the laboratory refuted the diagnosis. Later in July Smallpox was confirmed in London and several cases occurred there.

Smallpox Vaccination during 1957

Age Group	Under 1	1	2—4	5—14	15 or over
Vaccination ..	122	5	8	5	7
Re-vaccination ..	—	1	1	43	38

Influenza

In early September an Influenza-like illness occurred at Devizes Barracks. The disease spread rapidly both in the Barracks and in Devizes Town and by the end of the month local National Insurance Sickness Claims had risen 74%. During October when the incidence of the disease was at its height, schools were asked to cease holding morning assemblies and the local press were good enough to advise the public upon disease control methods. Subsequently, laboratory reports upon convalescent Army cases showed a rising antibody titre against Influenza virus A.

Dysentery

Eleven cases were notified and occurred at Roundway Hospital and in the villages of Bromham and Market Lavington. The Roundway Hospital outbreak was due to the Flexner bacillus and the strain was one associated with the Mental Hospital on a previous occasion. Cases were treated with sulphonamides and the affair was rapidly halted. This disease is prone to occur in large institutions.

The other cases, all of which occurred in the first quarter, were children, and the disease was caused by the Sonne bacillus. Children are usually excluded from School until they are non-infectious as evidenced by three consecutive negative stool specimens. In applying exclusion methods I am employing accepted practice, but the hardship which excluded children suffer to benefit the Public Health is most regrettable.

Food Poisoning

Fifty-six cases were notified and all occurred at Roundway Mental Hospital. This outbreak was mild in character and may have been due to an error in technique in one of the kitchens which, at the time, was supplying more wards than usual due to temporary closure of another kitchen for repairs and new equipment. No causative bacteria were isolated.

CAUSES OF DEATH

	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis of the respiratory system ...	1	1	2
Other forms of Tuberculosis ...	—	—	—
Syphilitic Diseases ...	—	—	—
Cancer and other malignant neoplasma ...	17	15	32
Diabetes ...	—	2	2
Heart Diseases ...	66	64	130
Other Circulatory Diseases ...	4	4	8
Influenza ...	1	1	2
Pneumonia ...	9	15	24
Bronchitis ...	2	2	4
Other Diseases of Respiratory System ...	—	—	—
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum ...	—	—	—
Gasteritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ...	1	—	1
Nephritis and nephrosis ...	1	—	1
Hyperplasia of prostate ...	1	—	1
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ...	—	1	1
Congenital malformations ...	—	—	—
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	3	11	14
Motor vehicle accidents ...	4	—	4
All other accidents ...	3	1	4
Suicide ...	—	2	2
Homicide and operations of war ...	—	—	—
GRAND TOTALS ...	113	119	232

Although it is customary for the report of a Medical Officer of Health to deal with infectious disease, infection is rarely the cause of death at the present time. Road accidents, for example, cause 20% of all deaths of males in the age group 15—19 years, and the figure is very little less than this in the age group 5—9 years.

Other new threats to the Public Health are coronary disease (28 deaths), duodenal ulcer, lung cancer (6 deaths), and the ill effects from radiation. Some of these new threats can be minimised by education. In this connection, the Principal School Medical Officer arranged in December that talks should be given to the older children of Southbroom Senior School to explain the disadvantages of smoking.

Radiation

Attention of late has been focused upon Radiation Hazard due to the Windscale mishap in Cumberland. Human populations have always been exposed to natural radiation, but to this is now added man-made artificial radiation and the problem is a quantitative one. Man-made radiation emanates from diagnostic X-rays, radiotherapy, shoe-fitting, luminous watches and clocks, television sets, high altitude flying, occupational exposure and fall-out from test explosions.

The additional radiation dose received from television sets and high altitude flying is so small that it may be discounted in efforts to minimise total exposure, but whilst thermonuclear test explosions continue it is surely worthwhile to try to limit other artificial exposure which may swell the total radiation dose.

X-ray for shoe-fitting, and the use of luminous paints on wrist watches and clocks should cease. This is particularly necessary in the case of children who are living in a world where the total radiation background dose is greater than it ever has been or will be for us in our lifetime.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT 1948, SECTION 47

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE AMENDMENT ACT, 1951

It was necessary on two occasions to remove to hospital old persons who were living alone in insanitary circumstances.

An old man living on his own at Horton and suffering from considerable swelling and sepsis of his legs, was persuaded to enter St. James's Hospital. He was later discharged at his own request and lived at his own home again for a few months, depending upon the goodwill of his neighbours for a mid-day meal and a clean home. In November the Public Health and Housing Committee resolved to recommend application for an order under the National Assistance Act, 1948 to detain this man in hospital. Before the matter could be brought before the court the man caught his clothes on fire and later was re-admitted to St. James's Hospital voluntarily.

In December another old person living on his own at Great Cheverell, whom I had visited on several occasions, collapsed. He refused to go to hospital despite his doctor sending an Ambulance for him. Later the same day he was removed under the authority of an Order obtained from a Justice under the 1951 Amendment Act. Once in hospital he elected to remain there and further orders to detain him were not required.

Report of the Senior Public Health Inspector 1957

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Report for the Year 1957.

This report contains some particulars of my duties as Water Engineer and Surveyor where these have a direct bearing on public health matters.

I wish to take this opportunity of thanking the Staff of the Department for the efficient and conscientious way in which they have carried out their duties and the Council for their continued appreciation.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

G. E. WILLIAMS,

Senior Public Health Inspector.

HOUSING

Slum Clearance

Satisfactory progress was made in the second year of the Council's Five-Year Slum Clearance Programme.

The following is a copy of a return made to the County Medical Officer of Health respecting housing matters and shows, amongst other things, the progress made in regard to slum clearance.

1.	Number of permanent dwellings in district at end of year	...	...	...	...	...	3,948
2.	Number of permanent dwellings in district owned by local authority	...	...	...	...	...	811
3.	Number of applications for Council houses at end of year	...	...	...	...	...	233
4.	Inspection of dwellings during year						
	(i)	Inspected for housing defects under Public Health and Housing Acts				...	379
	(ii)	Number of dwellings so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for habitation				...	38
	(iii)	Number of dwellings found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for habitation				...	181
5.	Number of dwellings rendered fit in consequence of informal action	...	...	...	...	...	73

6. Action under Statutory Powers

A. *Proceedings under Sections 9, 10, 16, Housing Act, 1936, and Sections 9, 10, 12, Housing Act, 1957.*

- | | | | |
|------|--|--------|-----|
| (i) | Number of dwellings where notices were served requiring defects to be remedied | ... | Nil |
| (ii) | Number of dwellings rendered fit after service of formal notices | ... .. | Nil |

B. *Proceedings under Public Health Acts.*

- | | | | |
|------|--|--------|-----|
| (i) | Number of dwellings where formal notices were served | ... .. | Nil |
| (ii) | Number of dwellings made fit as result of formal notices | ... .. | Nil |

C. *Proceedings under Section 11, Housing Act, 1936, and Section 16, Housing Act, 1957.*

- | | | | |
|-------|--|--------|----|
| (i) | Number of Demolition Orders made | ... | 24 |
| (ii) | Number of houses demolished as a result of Demolition Orders | ... .. | 5 |
| (iii) | Number of undertakings accepted... | ... | 1 |
| (iv) | Number of undertakings completed | ... | 1 |

D. *Proceedings under Section 25, Housing Act, 1936, Sections 42, 43, 46, 48, Housing Act, 1957.*

- | | | | |
|-------|---|--------|-----|
| (i) | Number of houses in clearance areas upon which Demolition Orders were made | ... | Nil |
| (ii) | Number of houses demolished as result of Demolition Orders | ... .. | 18 |
| (iii) | Number of houses in clearance areas which have been retained as temporary accommodation | ... .. | Nil |

E. *Proceedings under Section 12, Housing Act, 1936, Section 3, Housing Act, 1949, Section 10, Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953, Sections 17, 18, 27, Housing Act, 1957.*

- | | | | |
|-------|---|--------|-----|
| (i) | Number of dwellings where Closing Orders were made | ... .. | 5 |
| (ii) | Number of dwellings closed as result of Closing Orders or undertakings by owners | ... | 7 |
| (iii) | Number of dwellings where Closing Orders were cancelled in consequence of premises being made fit | ... .. | Nil |

F. *Proceedings under Section 57, Housing Act, 1936,
Section 76, Housing Act, 1957.*

- | | | |
|-------|---|-----------|
| (i) | Number of cases of overcrowding at end of year | Not Known |
| (ii) | Number of cases of overcrowding discovered during year | 2 |
| (iii) | Number of cases of overcrowding abated during year | 1 |

Houses erected or converted during year:—

1.1.57 to 31.12.57	Houses erected during year		Houses in course of erection		Gained from conversion of large houses into flats or dwellings	Lost from conversion of two or more houses into one
	For slum clearance	For other purposes	For slum clearance	For other purposes		
Local Authority	10	4	15	40	—	—
Private Enterprise	—	10	—	5	2	1

Improvement Grants made under the Housing Acts, 1949-54

Number of applications and houses dealt with by Local Authority:—

	(1) Received		(2) Approved		(3) Rejected		(4) Under Consideration		(5) Withdrawn	
	Aps.	No. of houses	Aps.	No. of houses	Aps.	No. of houses	Aps.	No. of houses	Aps.	No. of houses
1/1/57 to 31/12/57	30	42	30	42	—	—	—	—	—	—

Number of houses improved as result of grants 23

	No. of grants made by Local Authority	Cost of grants made	No. of houses completed including new houses brought into use by conversion
1/1/57 to 31/12/57	42	£13,676	23 (of which 15 were approved in 1956)

Number of applications in respect of owner/occupiers	...	8
Average cost per dwelling improved	...	£827
Average amount of grant payable by Local Authority (stated as percentage of approved expenditure)	...	39%

New Housing

Eight houses and six bungalows were completed during the year. There were twenty houses, thirty-three bungalows and two flats in the course of erection at the end of the year.

Improvement Grants

The Council has adopted a liberal policy in regard to improvement grants and is undoubtedly administering this work as the Legislature intended.

Improvement grants were approved in respect of forty-two houses during the year at a cost in grants of £13,676. The average estimated cost of improvement works per dwelling was £827 and this does not include the cost of repair items. Extensive improvements and modernisation to twenty-three houses were completed during the year. The high standard of improvements referred to in my Report for 1956 has been insisted upon by your Officers to ensure that these grants provide improvements of a radical and enduring nature.

WATER SUPPLY

The largest of the Post-War Water Supply Schemes, the South Eastern System, was completed during the middle of the year. This afforded mains water in the Parishes of Beechingstoke, Marden, Patney, Chirton, Urchfont, Easterton, Stert and Etchilhampton. In addition it afforded a relief to the Great Cheverell System, as a part of Market Lavington and Easterton which was formerly supplied from that system is now supplied from the South Eastern System. As a result, satisfactory pressure is now available in the Easterton Sands area, where the supply has given rise to anxiety for several years, and has also enabled the Spin Hill Booster station to be shut down.

The Council have every cause for congratulation on their achievement in making available a public piped water supply in their area to approximately ninety-seven per cent of the population.

The only unsatisfactory features are the inadequacy of the source at Great Cheverell and the absence of a public water supply in a part of West Lavington and Little Cheverell. Measures were initiated several years ago to solve these two difficulties and after certain exploratory work it was decided four years ago to try and acquire from the War Department their source at the V.I.S.T.R.E. Camp. The protracted negotiations appeared to be moving towards a satisfactory conclusion at the end of the year.

The following tables show in detail the amount of water supplied, its availability, purity, etc.:—

TABLE I

The amount of water supplied in 1957 from Great Cheverell, Chirton, Erlestoke, Devizes Borough and Calne and Chippenham R.D.C. sources, expressed in thousands of gallons per month:—

	Great Chev'll	Chirton (S.E.)	Erle- stoke	Fair- way	Nur- steed	Round- way	North Eastn.	North Westn.	TOTAL
Jan.	2,946	—	118	1,576	—	21	352	3,071	8,084
Feb.	2,922	—	118	1,278	5	21	384	2,827	7,555
Mar.	2,262	375	114	1,851	6	32	451	2,991	8,082
Apr.	2,670	1,167	137	275	11	15	494	3,427	8,196
May	2,550	2,615	127	109	8	23	523	3,515	9,470
June	2,863	2,103	153	400	15	26	629	4,476	10,665
July	1,826	2,480	188	1,360	6	32	541	3,616	10,049
Aug.	1,883	1,627	261	858	6	12	557	2,726	7,930
Sep.	1,856	1,644	292	816	5	21	607	4,481	9,722
Oct.	2,571	1,856	243	110	5	12	638	3,394	8,829
Nov.	2,614	1,706	114	64	5	32	530	2,337	7,402
Dec.	2,837	1,913	114	76	6	14	633	4,084	9,677
	29,800	17,486	1,979	8,773	78	261	6,339	40,945	105,661

	1957	1956
Supplied from Great Cheverell Borehole	29,800,000 (28.20 %)	30,153,000 (32.32 %)
Supplied from Chirton Borehole ...	17,486,000 (16.55 %)	—
Supplied from Erlestoke Source ...	1,979,000 (1.88 %)	1,392,000 (1.49 %)
Supplied from Devizes Borough:		
(a) North Eastern Scheme ...	6,339,000 (6.00 %)	680,000 (0.73 %)
(b) Other Schemes	9,112,000 (8.62 %)	22,454,000 (24.07 %)
Supplied from Calne and Chippenham R.D.C. ...	40,945,000 (38.75 %)	38,621,000 (41.39 %)
	<hr/> 105,661,000 <hr/>	<hr/> 93,300,000 <hr/>

The total shows an increase of 12,361,000 gallons over the amount for 1956, or approximately 13.25%.

TABLE II

Results of Bacteriological Examination of Public Water Supplies

Date					Before Chlorination	After Chlorination
GREAT CHEVERELL SYSTEM:						
20/3/57	..	..	..		Satisfactory	Satisfactory
25/4/57	..	..	..	—		Satisfactory
7/8/57	..	..	..	—		Satisfactory
1/10/57	..	..	..	—		Fair
25/11/57	..	..	..	—		Satisfactory
NORTH WESTERN SYSTEM:						
20/3/57	..	..	..	—		Satisfactory
7/8/57	..	..	..	—		Satisfactory
12/11/57	..	..	..	—		Satisfactory
25/11/57	..	..	..	—		Satisfactory
ERLESTOKE VILLAGE SYSTEM:						
16/5/57	..	..	..		Satisfactory	—
1/10/57	..	..	..	—		Satisfactory
SOUTH EASTERN SYSTEM:						
7/8/57	..	..	..	—		Satisfactory
1/10/57	..	..	..	—		Satisfactory
25/11/57	..	..	..	—		Satisfactory
NORTH EASTERN SYSTEM:						
2/9/57	..	..	..	—		Satisfactory
25/11/57	..	..	..	—		Satisfactory

TABLE III

Water Consumption Statistics

1.	Total number of premises supplied	...	3,040
2.	Estimated population supplied	...	9,700
3.	Total number of metered connections	...	555
4.	Total number of domestic connections	...	2,463
5.	Total number of other connections, e.g., Halls, etc.	... ..	22
6.	Total overall consumption	...	105,661,000 gallons
7.	Estimated total metered consumption	...	42,264,400 gallons
8.	Estimated total domestic consumption	...	71,295,200 gallons
9.	Estimated average domestic consumption per head of the population per diem	...	20.11 gallons
10.	Estimated average overall consumption per head of the population per diem	...	29.02 gallons

It should be noted that Nos. 7—10 above are estimated figures. It is not possible to give precise figures, as the water which is recorded

by most service meters, e.g., farms, is used for both domestic and non-domestic purposes. Again, an estimate of the population (3.5 persons per house) is used in arriving at the above figures as a physical count is not practicable. Notwithstanding these assumptions the figures may be taken as reasonably reliable.

The domestic consumption per head of the population per day, viz., 20.11 gallons, shows a decrease of approximately 10% compared with the figure for 1956.

The corresponding figures for recent years are:—

1953	...	...	...	20.87 gallons per day
1954	...	...	...	22.45 gallons per day.
1955	...	...	...	21.62 gallons per day.
1956	...	...	...	22.44 gallons per day.

The decrease in 1957, which is contrary to the general trend throughout the Country, is due to two causes. Many properties on the South Eastern System have not yet installed baths, water closets, wash basins, etc., and the amount of water lost through wastage in a new system is negligible.

The figure of 20.11 gallons per head per day is approximately 20% below the design figure of 25 gallons per head per day used for your post-War water schemes.

896 connections have been made to the post-War water schemes and it is estimated that this number is about 90% of the maximum number of potential consumers who would be connected in the first two to three years of operation.

General Statistics

The Council's Water Undertaking comprises the following:

Main Sources

Chirton—Two boreholes:

One 10,000 gallons per hour;
One 8,000 gallons per hour.

Great Cheverell—Three boreholes:

One 3,000 gallons per hour;
Two 2,000 gallons per hour.

Erlestoke Village Supply—Spring:

20,000 gallons per day.

Bulk Supply from Chippenham Borough Council boreholes via Calne and Chippenham R.D.C. mains—maximum 180,000 gallons per day.

Bulk Supply from Devizes Borough boreholes at Bourton—maximum 82,000 gallons per day.

Also small bulk supplies at The Fairway, Nursteed and Roundway.

Reservoirs

There are six reservoirs, having a total capacity of 625,000 galls.

Water Mains

There are 80.73 miles of water main.

General Observations

If a local authority is to run its undertaking on sound principles and to have a clear view of the present and future policy it must have, among other things, accurate statistics relating to the yield of sources, consumption, loss through wastage, assessments of future requirements, pumping costs and distribution costs etc.

Your water schemes have been in a state of flux during the year under review and it is not possible to give a comprehensive resume of the water supply position for the District until outstanding schemes are completed.

No useful experience was gained of the effect of supplying water for horticultural irrigation in the Bromham area owing to the relatively heavy rainfall during the spring and summer which resulted in only a small amount of water being used for irrigation.

SEWERAGE

The Council are responsible for:—

17½ miles of public piped sewer (not including the Market Lavington and Easterton Scheme).

Approximately 5 miles of public sewer ditch.

Several miles of private sewer and drains on Council house estates.

24 sewage works.

The excellent progress made during 1956 continued during the current year in regard to the provision of sewerage schemes and the position at the end of the year was as follows:—

Easterton, Market Lavington and West Lavington

Construction of the sewers was almost completed and work on the sewage works and pumping station were in an advanced state.

Rowde.

This scheme came into operation in October.

Stanton St. Bernard and Wedhampton

Work on these schemes commenced towards the end of the year.

Urchfont

A tender was accepted and work was expected to commence early in 1958.

Seend

The Council have been authorised to accept tenders for this scheme, which includes the main village, but in view of the " credit squeeze " and their commitments in the foregoing schemes, no further progress was made at the year's end.

Etchilhampton

The Ministry of Housing and Local Government has approved the Council's proposals in principle.

Bromham—Stage 1 (Village and Pound)

This scheme has been submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government for approval.

Great Cheverell and Little Cheverell

An outline scheme for these parishes has been approved by the Council.

Poulshot, Worton and Marston, and Bromham—Stage 2 (Netherstreet, Hawkstreet and St. Edith's Marsh)

The Council's Consulting Engineers have been instructed to prepare schemes for these parishes.

FOOD INSPECTION

Slaughterhouses

There are three licensed slaughterhouses in the District, two of which have been in continuous operation whilst the third has fallen into intermittent use during the latter part of the year. The slaughterhouse of recent origin provides mostly for the wholesale trade and supplies butchers in and around the District and various bacon factories in neighbouring towns. One hundred per cent. inspection of carcasses is carried out. The slaughterhouses have been well conducted and a high standard of cleanliness has been maintained, resulting in well dressed and hygienically prepared carcasses in fairly large numbers for consumption in and around the District.

Meat Inspection

The number of carcasses inspected and condemnations were as follows:—

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed ..	703	136	82	1118	1223
Number inspected ..	703	136	82	1118	1223
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS AND CYSTICERCOSIS: Whole carcasses con- demned	—	—	1	2	7
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	5	6	—	—	1
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tub- erculosis or Cysticercosis	0.71 %	4.41 %	1.22 %	0.18 %	0.65 %
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY: Whole Carcasses con- demned	1	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	18	11	—	—	18
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis.. ..	2.70 %	8.09 %	—	—	1.47 %
CYSTICERCOSIS: Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refriger- ation	—	—	—	—	—
Generally and totally con- demned	—	—	—	—	—

Disposal of Condemned Food

All condemned meat at the slaughterhouses is first stained and then removed by a hide and skin company to Bristol for manufacture into fertilisers.

Food Premises

The introduction of the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955, gave additional powers to Councils by enabling them to require a higher standard of hygiene in food premises than was previously possible. The result of the past two years' efforts by your Officers is to be seen in the considerable improvement in food shops. Many structural improvements have been carried out and modern fitments installed, and the standard of cleanliness and food handling has been raised. This has been done informally by consultation and advice. Owing to the scattered nature of the District it is not possible to give lectures, film displays or demonstrations on food hygiene.

Three premises are registered for the manufacture of sausages under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

Number and Types of Food Premises:

General Retail Food Shops	Licensed Premises	Butchers' Shops	Bake- houses	Fried Fish Shops	Hospitals, Schools, Institutions	Restaurants, Cafes
49	42	6	6	2	25	2

ICE CREAM

There are now thirty-one premises registered for the sale and/or storage of ice cream, all of which have been visited during the year in conjunction with inspections of the food premises generally, and were found to be satisfactory.

Owing to a temporary depletion in staff during a large portion of the year, only nineteen samples of ice cream were taken and submitted for examination. The results were as follows:—

PROVISIONAL GRADES OF CLEANLINESS						
		I	II	III	IV	Total
Manufacture A	...	10	2	—	—	12
Manufacture B	...	4	—	—	—	4
Manufacture C	...	3	—	—	—	3
TOTAL						19

The Public Health Laboratory service suggests that 50% of a vendor's samples should fall into Grade I, 80% into Grades I or II, no more than 20% into Grade III and none into Grade IV. On this basis it will be seen that ice cream supplied in the area can be regarded as satisfactory.

MILK SUPPLIES

The Milk (Special Designations) (Specified Areas) Order, 1957 which came into force on the 1st April, 1957, requires that all milk sold in this District be either Tuberculin Tested, Pasteurised or Sterilised. This Order means, among other things, that a number of non-designated producer-retailers must now despatch their milk to one of the large dairies for heat treatment.

There are twelve registered dairies.

Sampling has been carried out during the year for statutory and biological examination, the results of which showed that no tubercle bacilli were present and that the standard of cleanliness of production and bottling was high.

Details and results of Sampling

		Passed	Failed	Total
Methylene Blue Test				
(for keeping quality)				
Tuberculin Tested Milk ...	...	23	5	28
Phosphatase Test				
(for efficient pasteurisation) ...	...	10	0	10
Biological Test				
(for presence of Tubercle Bacilli)	...	27	0	27

In addition to the above results of sampling, all samples of milk submitted for biological test were also examined for the presence of *Brucella abortus* organisms. The consumption of milk so affected can cause undulant fever in humans. The milk of one herd of dairy cows was found to be infected with *Brucella abortus*. Individual sampling from all cows in this herd proved that three animals were affected. The farmer agreed to separate these cows from the herd and to send the milk for pasteurisation.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

Refuse is collected fortnightly with the exception of the military establishments in the area where it is collected twice per week. Occasional complaints are received from people who find it difficult to carry their bins to the roadside and from occupiers of some of the isolated premises which are a long distance from the highway and from which collection is not made. It would, of course, be possible to organise the collection of refuse from the rear of premises, including isolated premises, but this would approximately double the present cost of collection.

A tractor with various appliances was purchased during the year, in order to handle, consolidate and cover the refuse with earth at the Refuse Tip in a more efficient manner than hitherto. This machinery arrived too late to help deal with the fly nuisance and this factor, together with much illness among the workmen, resulted in repeated complaints being received of fly infestation in neighbouring properties. It became apparent towards the end of the summer that the mechanical equipment referred to would greatly improve the disposal of refuse and, combined with the regular application of suitable insecticides and the daily covering with earth, should keep the tip practically free from flies..

The total cost of collection and disposal of refuse for the year ended 31st March, 1957, was £4,707 7s. 0d. and the net cost after deducting income received (£1,531 17s. 9d.) was £3,175 9s. 3d. The approximate cost of the service per head of the population served was 4s. 0d.

The costs of this service are outstandingly low. According to returns obtained by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government from sixty Rural District Councils, the average cost of the service per head of the population served for the Year 1955/6 was 8s. 7½d.

RODENT CONTROL

The tabular form of report required annually by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, which accompanies these comments, shows the amount of work carried out in connection with this duty.

The refuse tip and sewer ditches, etc. of the Council have received systematic attention. The Rodent Operative carries out surveys and necessary treatments in all parishes in an organised programme, which resulted in keeping complaints to a minimum. This very necessary work consequently proceeds in a quiet and unobtrusive manner by your competent Rodent Operative and is materially helping to keep the rat menace in check. Close liaison is maintained with his counterparts in the Pests Organisation of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

		Type of Property				
		Non-Agricultural				(5) Agri- cultural
		(1) Local Auth- ity	(2) Dwelling Houses (inc. Council Houses)	(3) AllOther (inc. business Prem- ises)	(4) Total of Cols. (1) (2) & (3)	
I.	Number of properties in Local Authority's Dis- trict	7	2,949	244	3,200	845
II.	Number of properties inspected as result of: ..					
	(a) Notification ..	—	24	—	24	5
	(b) Survey under the Act ..	6	1,071	58	1,135	60
	(c) Otherwise (e.g. when visited primarily for some other purpose) ..	—	—	—	—	—
III.	Total inspections car- ried out—including re- inspections ..	20	3,495	58	3,573	60
IV.	Number of properties in- spected (in Sec. II) which were found to be in- fested by: ..					
	(a) Rats—Major ..	2	24	6	32	12
	Minor ..	4	174	14	192	8
	(b) Mice—Major ..	—	3	3	6	—
	Minor ..	—	—	—	—	—
V.	Number of infested pro- perties (in Sec. IV) treated by the Local Authority	6	201	23	230	20
VI.	Total treatments carried out—including re-treat- ments	14	201	23	238	20
VII.	Number of notices ser- ved under Sec. 4 of the Act:					
	(a) Treatment ..	—	—	—	—	—
	(b) Structural Work (i.e. Proofing	—	—	—	—	—
VIII.	Number of cases in which default action was taken following issue of a notice under Sec. 4 of the Act ..	—	—	—	—	—
IX.	Legal Proceedings ..	—	—	—	—	—
X.	Number of “Block” control schemes carried out	Total 30				

FACTORIES

There are fifty factories in the District. Most of these are small concerns employing a few persons and consist mostly of garages and builders' workshops.

Forty inspections have been made during the year. A few minor infringements have been remedied by informal action.

No matter was referred to H.M. Inspector of Factories who also had no cause to refer any matter to the Council.

SHOPS

The majority of shops (other than food premises) have been inspected with a view to ensuring compliance with the Shops Act. The small number of minor infringements received prompt attention.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

There are licences in force in respect of five sites, the largest being that at The Fox and Hounds, Nursteed, where a maximum of eight caravans is permitted.

Individual licences were granted to the occupiers of sixteen caravans, four less than in the previous year.

SWIMMING BATHS

Following investigation as to the quality of the water used in a large swimming pool at a public school, it was established that there was some undesirable pollution. Advice was given with a view to improving the purity of the water and the installation of plant which would at least partly chlorinate the water.

DISEASES OF ANIMALS (WASTE FOODS) ORDER, 1957

During the latter part of 1957 the Council decided to accept delegation of powers from the Wiltshire County Council under the above Order, and from the 1st January, 1958, to be responsible for carrying out the various duties imposed. It has therefore been necessary to visit a large number of premises in the District to investigate fully whether the provisions of the Order apply and whether licences are required when the Council assumes responsibility.

The main purport of the Order is to assist in the prevention of foot and mouth disease. The Order prohibits the feeding of unboiled waste foods to certain animals and poultry. Certain premises must be licensed by the Council who must be satisfied that suitable apparatus for boiling the swill is available, and that precautions are taken to prevent animals gaining access to unboiled waste.

COMPLAINTS

The following Table shows the position in regard to complaints made to your Officers either verbally or by correspondence.

Type of Complaint	Number	Remedied	Out-standing	No Action Necessary
Housing (excluding Council Houses)	2	1	1	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—
Insanitary Houses	12	8	1	3
Sewerage	13	13	—	—
Drainage	28	23	2	3
River Pollution	2	1	1	—
Water Supply	6	4	—	2
Refuse	2	—	—	2
Keeping of Animals	3	2	—	1
Fly Infestation	2	2	—	—
Rodent Infestation	—	—	—	—
Footpaths	3	3	—	—
Miscellaneous	9	6	—	3
Totals	82	63	5	14

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT AND BUILDING BYELAWS

205 plans were submitted for approval, 104 of which required approval under the Town and Country Planning Act.

The explanation of the complicated procedures in regard to the submission of plans and applications takes up a great deal of the time of your Officers. In many cases applicants were not willing to engage professional assistance from persons who are acquainted with the complexities of the law governing these matters; this means that your Officers have to fulfil that role.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS

Housing	379
Nuisances	66
Drainage	410
Sewerage	427
Water Supply	340
Water Samples	34
Food Inspection	263
Dairies	6
Food Shops	96
Milk Sampling	64
Refuse	88
Bakehouses	9
Workshops and Factories	40
Petroleum Regulations	15
Council Houses	1,539
Rodent Control	2
Town and Country Planning	142
Building	523
Ice Cream	17
Diseases of Animals (Waste Foods) Order	11
Miscellaneous	277

